



City Administrator's Report

August 2003

Dear Reader,

This monthly report summarizes and provides updates on major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to give us your comments and suggestions.

James L. Armstrong
jarmstrong@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us
564-5301

Marcelo A. López
mlopez@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us
564-5304

Key Meetings:

August 5, 19, 26 Council Meetings

Flags on State Street:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| August 1 - August 8 | Fiesta |
| August 8 - August 26 | Domestic Violence Solutions |
| August 26 - September 8 | United Way |

Concerts in the Park at Chase Palm Park, 6 - 8:30 p.m.:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| August 7 | New Monsoon - World Jam-Rock |
| August 14 | Hot Club Jazz Trio and The Cyrus Clarke Expedition - Acoustic Double Header |
| August 21 | The Kaye Bohler Band - Blues |
| August 28 | Raymond Michael - Casino Superstars Show |

Concerts at Alameda Park, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| August 10 | "I Music Piemônteis" - Youth Band & Choir from Cirié, Torino, Italy |
| August 17 | David Osbourne Band - Country music |
| August 24 | Foggy Dew - Irish music |

Community Events:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| August 1 - 3 | Old Spanish Days Fiesta |
| August 1 | Fiesta Parade - State Street from Cabrillo Blvd. to Micheltorena Street, 12 noon |
| August 2 | Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast - Alameda Park |
| August 2 | Children's Fiesta Parade - State Street from Victoria to Ortega Streets, 10 a.m. |
| August 3 | Magic Under the Stars! (Fiesta Finale) - Courthouse Sunken Gardens, 5 p.m. |
| August 9 | Woodies at the Beach - Santa Barbara City College (West Campus) 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |

City Administrator

Special meeting with Representative Lois Capps

On August 6, Santa Barbara City Council will hold a special meeting with Representative Lois Capps – a strong advocate for Federal action to address community goals and needs. She has also been very effective in facilitating Federal funding for City capital projects, and permitting of City activities by Federal agencies. The purpose of the meeting is to: build on the positive working relationship that the City has with Representative Capps; review the current status of various City activities and projects that involve the Federal government; and hear comments from Representative Capps concerning Congressional activities and issues that are anticipated in the near term that will be of interest to community residents.

State budget update

As of the writing of this report, it seems that the State has finally reached agreement on a \$100 billion budget for fiscal year 2004. On July 27, almost four weeks into the fiscal year, the State Senate passed a budget on a 27 to 10 vote. On July 29, on a 56-22 vote, the State Assembly also passed a budget, which was then forwarded to the Governor – who has indicated that he will sign it. These developments came shortly after credit rating agency Standard & Poor's downgraded the State's credit rating by three steps, from A to BBB – just barely above junk bond status.

According to our preliminary information, the proposed budget seems (once again) to be a short-term solution to a long-term problem, relying heavily on borrowing to close the unprecedented deficit. The budget also (once again) shifts a large and disproportionate share of the burden to local governments. The budget includes a statewide hit to local governments of around \$1 billion.

There are at least two differences between the Senate and Assembly versions of the budget that materially affect local governments. In both cases, the Assembly's version of the budget is more favorable to local governments. The Senate's version of the budget would take \$250 million from redevelopment agencies statewide, approximately \$1.4 million from Santa Barbara's RDA. The Assembly's version would take "only" \$135 million, approximately \$765,000 from Santa Barbara. In addition, the Senate version eliminates State reimbursement to cities for the jail booking fees paid to counties. The Assembly version maintains this funding – \$217,000 to our City's General Fund. These differences will need to be reconciled when the Legislature reconvenes in Aug. after their summer vacation.

Some of the "highlights" of the proposal in relation to impacts on local government are:

1. **Sales Tax - Property Tax Swap (the "Triple Flip")** - To secure a dedicated funding source for the issuance of \$10.7 billion in State deficit reduction bonds, the proposal calls for the State to trade one-half of the one-cent sales tax allocated to local governments for an equal amount of property tax revenue. This swap would - in theory - last for the five years necessary to pay off the State bonds. After the five-year period, the swap would supposedly be reversed. According to the State, this is a "hold harmless" proposal that would not cost local governments any revenue. We shall see.

2. **Vehicle License Fee (VLF or "car tax") Loan** - The State recently "pulled the trigger" on the VLF, raising the tax back to 1998 levels. This action saves the State's General Fund approximately \$4 billion per year because, since 1998, the State has been paying that amount to "backfill" local governments for the loss of the actual VLF tax revenue (according to the State Constitution, the VLF is a local government revenue). However, since the "trigger" wasn't pulled until late June, it will take the State approximately three months to fully implement the increased VLF levels. During this "transition period," the State would still be obligated to pay the backfill. Under the Senate budget proposal, the State would withhold the backfill payments during this three-month transition period and treat it as a loan to the State from local governments. This would save the State about \$852 million this fiscal year. Supposedly, the "loan" would be repaid in three years. Although the funds would (theoretically) be repaid in three years, this "loan" will cost the City's General Fund approximately \$1.1 million this fiscal year (FY 2004).
3. **Other Miscellaneous Cuts** - The Senate's budget proposal apparently also contains \$98 million of additional local government cuts, which have yet to be specifically identified. Therefore, it is impossible at this point to determine the impact on Santa Barbara.
4. **Redevelopment Agency** – As discussed above, the Senate's budget contains a \$250 million statewide reduction in the property tax paid to RDAs. This translates to a cut to the City's RDA of approximately \$1.4 million, representing about 10% of total RDA revenues. In the Assembly's version, the cut is limited to \$135 million, or approximately \$765,000 to the City's RDA.

Agreement reached with police officers

The City and the Santa Barbara Police Officers Association have ratified a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.), effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. The labor agreement provides a five percent salary increase for both sworn and non-sworn police employees, among other changes.

"Inside Santa Barbara" on City-TV, Channel 18

August episode begins Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m.: Pedestrian Master Plan, Graffiti clean-up efforts; Therapeutic Riding Program; 2003 Design Review Awards; Old Mission Creek at Bohnett Park renovation; City's water conservation programs. Weekly airtimes: Mon. at 8 p.m., Tues. at 5 p.m., Wed. at 6:30 p.m., Sat. at 9 p.m., Sun. at 10:30 p.m.

"Nuestra Ciudad" on City-TV, Channel 18

August episode begins Aug. 9 at 8 p.m. Host Gerardo Lorenz and his guest, Assistant to the City Administrator Marcelo Lopez, discuss the City and State budget impacts, plus City-TV's Spanish translation public service, and closed captioning of City Council meetings. Produced by City-TV, "Nuestra Ciudad" is a monthly Spanish language show that promotes City government services to Santa Barbara's Spanish speaking residents. Airs each month on Mon. at 9 p.m., Sat. and Sun. at 8 p.m.

It's all creeks to me

City-TV completed production of "Caring for our Creeks," a 17-minute educational video on the Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Report to the Community in 2002. The program includes interviews with educators, kids, businesses, environmentalists, Creeks Advisory Committee members, and City staff who are working towards solutions on water quality and creek/habitat restoration related to our local creeks and beaches. Channel 18 airtimes: Aug. 1 at 6:40 p.m., Aug. 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 6 p.m.

Airport Department**\$10 million grant puts airfield safety on the up-and-up**

The Airport received a \$10 million FAA Grant for Phase I of the Aviation Facilities Plan airfield safety projects, which meet current national safety priorities. Projects include construction of standard safety overrun areas for the main runway, and associated taxiway improvements. The Airport will provide a 10% grant match (\$1 million) toward the projects from Passenger Facility Charge revenue.

Airport Commission Chair Kahn gains air of distinction

Airport Commission Chairperson Karen Kahn recently landed her Master designation as a Certified Flight Instructor from the National Association of Flight Instructors. She is also a Continental Airlines MD-80 captain, an aviation safety and career counselor, and author of the book, "Flight Guide for Success." Kahn is distinguished as one of only 28 California aviation educators to earn the prestigious "Master" title.

Survey shows what's up with pilots

A general aviation survey of 112 owners of aircraft based at SBA measured satisfaction with services provided by the Airport, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Control and airfield businesses. Pilots gave consistently high marks to Airport maintenance, FAA services, and indicated satisfaction with the operators providing hangar and tie-down space and fueling services.

Community Development Department**Planning Commission agenda**

August highlights: Discussion of the proposed Pedestrian Master Plan (Aug. 7); review the Draft Housing Element Update, hear from the public, and make a recommendation to the City Council (Aug. 7); concept review of a proposed addition to the Harborview Inn at 29 State Street (Aug. 14). The Commission will also consider certification of the Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan and Off-Leash Dog Location Study Environmental Impact Report.

Inclusionary Housing Program

The Planning Commission voted on July 24 to recommend that Council adopt a draft Inclusionary Housing Program – requiring all new residential ownership projects of 10 units or more to set aside 15% of the units for affordable- to middle-income households. A middle-income household of four in Santa Barbara County is between 120% and 200% of the Average Median Income of \$60,600; or household incomes between \$72,720 and \$121,000. Developers can meet the set-aside requirement through bonus units (beyond the base zoning), or an in-lieu fee.

Mixed-use housing gets priority

The City Council and the Redevelopment Agency Board in July gave conceptual support to a proposed mixed-use project at 617 Garden Street – across from the Community Development/ Public Works Building – by granting the project Preliminary Community Priority Designation for Measure E square footage. City staff was directed to negotiate a Disposition and Development Agreement to address the following issues: the City's contribution of the City employee parking lot to the project, in exchange for replacement parking spaces in a podium structure; the City's provision of residential density bonus; the City's provision of a \$4.6 million housing subsidy for 50 affordable apartments for Santa Barbara Mental Health (SBMH) clients and downtown workers; and SBMH's provision to the City of a below-market option to lease up to 5,000 square feet of office space. The project includes administrative offices for SBMH, a client rehab center, and a client drop-in Friendship Center.

Finance Department**Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)**

The table shows that June TOT received in July is down approximately 6.9% from the prior fiscal year. June was the final month for FY 2003, and we ended the fiscal year under budget by about \$111,000. This means that TOT will need to grow slightly over 4% in FY 2004 to meet budget, instead of the 3% budgeted.

| | FY 2001 | Change from Prior Year | FY 2002 | Change from Prior Year | FY 2003 | Change from Prior Year |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| July | \$1,204,593 | 11.3% | \$1,171,041 | -2.8% | \$1,183,951 | 1.1% |
| Aug | \$1,246,973 | 7.9% | \$1,276,212 | 2.3% | \$1,328,278 | 4.1% |
| Sept | \$952,314 | 14.1% | \$808,657 | -15.1% | \$849,174 | 5.0% |
| Oct | \$839,946 | 3.7% | \$790,919 | -5.8% | \$830,054 | 4.9% |
| Nov | \$691,398 | 13.2% | \$653,829 | -5.4% | \$684,776 | 4.7% |
| Dec | \$594,145 | 16.2% | \$539,598 | -9.2% | \$529,694 | -1.8% |
| Jan | \$578,703 | 9.4% | \$511,090 | -11.7% | \$583,413 | 14.2% |
| Feb | \$628,764 | 9.4% | \$611,322 | -2.8% | \$616,824 | 0.9% |
| Mar | \$769,047 | 5.6% | \$783,829 | 1.9% | \$704,942 | -10.1% |
| April | \$810,450 | 0.8% | \$822,209 | 1.5% | \$793,352 | -3.5% |
| May | \$841,975 | 3.3% | \$856,251 | 1.7% | \$817,047 | -4.6% |
| June | \$1,012,438 | 8.2% | \$1,012,905 | 0.0% | \$942,900 | -6.9% |
| FY Total | \$10,170,746 | 8.3% | \$9,837,862 | -3.3% | \$9,864,406 | 0.3% |

Fire Department**CERT stands and delivers...en Español**

In conjunction with the Police Department, the Fire Department in July completed a Spanish language CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) class, which drew a standing room only crowd. CERT classes prepare individuals to handle emergencies by training them to use fire extinguishers, administer first aid, and take other interim survival measures while awaiting the arrival of Fire or Police Department personnel.

Classified information

The Fire Department will be working with ISO (Insurance Service Office), at no cost to the City, to conduct an updated classification study (the last study was conducted in 1992). We are currently a Class 2 Department, with 1 being the highest and 10 being the lowest.

That's what friends are for

Automatic Aid response is being expanded to include the Summerland-Carpinteria Fire District, and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department for engine, truck, and timely dispatch needs.

Library Department**Booking their time**

With funding from the Santa Barbara Foundation, the Santa Barbara Public Library System has begun an outreach program for teens at the two juvenile detention camps at Los Prietos. Youth Services staff and camp supervisors selected and appropriate materials and paperback collections for recreational reading, which have been placed in each dormitory. A non-fiction collection is now available to assist with homework assignments. Starting soon, an eight-week "Wordology" class taught by local poet and educator Sojourner Kincaid-Rolle will help teen inmates develop facility with words in speaking and writing, increase vocabulary, aid in self-expression, and assist in cross-cultural understanding. In the fall, book clubs with facilitated discussions will be offered in each of the two teen camps.

Parks and Recreation Department**Viva La Fiesta 2003**

The City's goal for Old Spanish Days (OSD) is to assure the smooth and successful operation of this year's July 30 through August 3 festivities. Staffs from Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Fire, Police, Waterfront and Finance have coordinated with OSD to make this citywide extravaganza safe and enjoyable for all who attend. Ole!

Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp

Parks and Recreation is partnering with UCSB and other community groups to provide a unique summer camp experience for children with physical disabilities. Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp – Aug. 12-16 on the UCSB campus – features sports instruction, games, and fun for children ages five to 19. Instructors who are wheelchair athletes serve as role models for the campers. Grants and donations provide funding and camp scholarships.

Here's the dirt: gardens under new management

The Parks and Recreation Department assumed management in July of the three City community gardens from the Community Environmental Council. Coordinated through Community Services with assistance from Parks, the garden program will feature a strong neighborhood volunteer component in conjunction with the three community center advisory committees, plus collaboration with SBCC and other community gardening groups to promote and provide instruction in organic gardening.

Don't just sit there

The Parks and Recreation Fall/Winter "Activity Guide 2003-2004" will be available starting Aug. 21 at P&R office locations, the P&R Web site, and in *The Santa Barbara Independent*. Copies also will be distributed in the *Santa Barbara News-Press* on Aug. 23, and in the *Valley Voice* on Aug. 22. The guide covers all programs and activities offered by the department from Sept. 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004.

Police Department**July 4th fireworks**

Virtually every police officer and most other Department staff were involved in crowd control, traffic flow, and public safety. For the most part, the large crowds were very family oriented and peaceful. A few fights broke out timed to occur during the fireworks show. Police officers maintained order with quick response and numerous arrests. The evening closed with scattered complaints of noise, parties, and fireworks, with no significant problems.

Anonymous tip ends robbery spree

A string of five robberies was committed by three suspects between July 6 and 21:

- July 6 – Blenders In The Grass, 1046 Coast Village Road
- July 13 – IHOP, 1701 State Street
- July 18 – Shell Gas Station, 3060 State Street
- July 18 – USA Gas Station, 340 West Carrillo Street
- July 21 – Blenders In The Grass, 315 Meigs Road

The suspects used a knife in each robbery. An anonymous tip resulting from a media story led police to three suspects involved in the robberies. The men were arrested on July 23, and are being held at Santa Barbara County Jail.

How dumb is that? Burglar trips alarm, gets arrested

Police officers responded on July 14 after midnight to Mike's Drum Shop, 1109 De la Vina Street, on an alarm call. Officer Rullman found a man walking away from the business carrying drum cymbals and drum clutches worth about \$2,500. A store employee responded, and found the merchandise tags on the shop floor. Security video also recorded the burglary. The 48-year old, after-hours "shopper" was arrested and booked at the jail. The shop's employee recognized him as someone who was often in the store.

Public Works Department**Granada Garage**

The City continues its negotiations with Wilbur Smith Associates. At issue is who should pay to redesign the proposed 575-space parking, after construction estimates came in at \$6.5 million higher than expected.

Sewer system maintenance

The City's sewer maintenance program continues this year: 3,000 feet of sewer pipe is being replaced, and nearly 30,000 feet of sewer pipe is being rehabilitated.

Sheffield Reservoir Construction Update

Construction of two, 1.5 million-gallon capacity temporary reservoirs is nearing completion. When their construction is finished, the existing Sheffield Reservoir will be demolished, and construction will begin on two buried, 6.5 million-gallon reservoirs. Within two years, the reservoir property will be converted to a passive, open-space park.

Cater Water Treatment Plant Construction Update

A major upgrade of the Cater Water Treatment Plant is currently in the tenth month of a two-year, \$13 million construction contract. The work is about 60% complete and involves: replacing aging equipment; making changes to meet upcoming drinking water regulations and standards mandated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act; process and physical improvements to increase plant reliability, efficiency, and security of the entire water treatment operation. The complex project is made even more so by the need to keep the plant in service during construction, to supply drinking water without interruption.

Building Maintenance project updates

- The City Hall Roofing Project is completed. The roofing contractor will now be moving to the Faulkner Gallery and then to the East Side Library to replace deteriorated roofs before the rainy season.
- Deteriorated windows on the south side of City Hall will be replaced by the end of Sept.
- Modifications are being made to the Public Works Water and Streets Divisions offices to increase office space.
- Staff will repair and re-stain the entire Municipal Tennis Courts Stadium in a maintenance effort to prolong the life of this wood structure.

Rebuilding Haley/De La Vina Streets Bridge

Currently under design is a new bridge over Mission Creek to replace the existing one at the intersection of Haley and De La Vina Streets. By combining aesthetic input from the Lower Mission Creek Design Subcommittee and the need for a 20-year flood conveyance, the new bridge will be a welcome improvement to the surrounding neighborhood. Project cost is estimated at \$4.2 million. Construction is scheduled for completion in Fall 2005.

Steps toward a pedestrian-friendly community

Community input is being sought to develop a Pedestrian Master Plan. Interested parties can complete an online survey at <http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us>
Questions? Call Mobility Coordinator at (805) 564-5544.

Waterfront Department**What's up, dock?**

Structural repairs by Waterfront Maintenance staff to various Marina One Slip Fingers, are 30% complete on this minor capital project. Expected completion date is Oct. 2003. The purpose for the 2003 Harbor Docks Structural Repairs Project is to maintain public safety, and extend the longevity of the marina facilities.

Harbor & Seafood Festival set for Oct. 11

This year's co-sponsors of the event are Ben Page Youth Center and Villa Magella. Nearly 15,000 attended last year's event. The Harbor and Seafood Festival Steering Committee has planned a variety of family activities. Local fishermen will provide fresh seafood, including albacore, shrimp, crab, and lobster. Boat rides, bands, diver demonstrations, Maritime Museum tours, craft booths, and raffles are planned. Attendees will be able to purchase seafood directly from commercial fishing boats at the City Pier, and have their "catch" cooked right on the spot – just like last year.

Administrative Services

Online City Council agenda = less paper + quick access

An automated agenda management system called *LegisStream™* allows the public to retrieve Santa Barbara City Council agenda documents online – at the same time that they are available to City Councilmembers. The City Clerk's Office publishes the Council Agenda Packet consisting of the agenda, staff reports, and associated attachments, and posts it to the Internet by 3 p.m. on Thursdays. Also, the Finished Agenda is posted by 3 p.m. on Wednesdays.

To view and print the Agenda, Council Agenda Reports, and Finished Agenda from the Internet: <http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us> Click on City Council Agendas from the Quick Selections menu on the right side of the screen, under Selected Web Pages.

Send comments or suggestions to City Clerk Services Manager Mabi Covarrubias Plisky, mplisky@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us